NASA Project Management Challenge 2009

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Can We Answer the Question "How Long Will It Take And How Much Is It Going to Cost?"

There has been a lot of discussion about establishing a "confidence level budget" for all programs and projects. How do we determine if a project can be done in a certain time frame for the dollars that are available? We seem to understand that there is a relationship between cost and schedule but we haven't established a reliable methodology for the integration of cost and schedule risk assessments. IPAO conducts an Independent Cost Estimate and an Independent Schedule Risk Analysis as part of the Standing Review Board process. This presentation will talk about the synergy between the two assessments. It will address the default timeline for our assessments, the methodologies used, the outcomes, and the roles of the SRB and the project being reviewed in contributing to a successful product that can be brought to the Governing Program Management Council.

Anita Thomas, PMP
Lead Schedule Analyst
NASA Headquarters

Ms. Thomas is the lead schedule analyst for IPAO. She is currently working to improve the schedule analysis and schedule risk assessment tools, processes and products of the Standing Review Boards. Prior to coming to IPAO she worked human space flight programs at Johnson Space Center and NASA Headquarters and robotics and aerospace programs at Langley Research Center. Ms. Thomas is a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP). She was awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal for her return to flight work after the Challenger mishap.

Richard Greathouse
Lead Cost Analyst
NASA Headquarters

Mr. Richard Greathouse is the Lead Cost Engineer and Manager for IPAO's Cost Analysis Group (CAG). He has been a Principle Cost Estimator for the IPAO CAG for 7 years. Prior to working for NASA Mr. Greathouse worked for the U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command as an Senior Operations Research Analyst for 15 years, generally in aviation & missile cost analysis area. Mr. Greathouse has a baccalaureate degree in Applied Mathematics (Physics) from UNC; he also has a Masters in Computer Science from Florida Institute of Technology.